

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 05298 252232Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SAB-01 PM-03 INR-05 L-01

PRS-01 /036 W

-----072500 252240Z /61

R 252205Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2895

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 5298

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PN, PQ

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ASKS FOR RESPITE IN DISCUSSING
POST-2000 DEFENSE/NEUTRALITY

1. AS WE NOTED IN PANAMA 5285, THE PRESS HERE HAS CHOSEN TO DOWNPLAY THE MOST POTENTIALLY CONTROVERSIAL PARTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY TO A QUESTION AT YAZOO CITY ON THE CANAL. THIS UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTS A DESIRE BY TORRIJOS NOT TO ROCK THE BOAT AT THIS CRITICAL TIME. I SPOKE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER LATE FRIDAY AND GAVE HIM A COPY OF THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT CLARIFYING THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID HE THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD LESSEN ANY NEGATIVE IMPACT WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE RESULTED. GONZALEZ-REVILLA ALSO SAID HE REALIZED THAT THE U.S. WOULD HAVE TO GIVE A PUBLIC INTERPRETATION OF THE NEUTRALITY TREATY GIVING US A ROLE IN CANAL DEFENSE AFTER 2000, BUT HE ASKED THAT WE HOLD OFF ON ANY MORE SUCH STATEMENTS FOR A FEW WEEKS. ONE MINISTER NOTED THE RISING CHORUS OF OPPOSITION HERE AND ASKED THAT WE TRY TO GIVE THE GOVERNMENT A LITTLE TIME TO PREPARE THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE FOR THIS POLITICALLY EXPLOSIVE PROVISION--WHICH MANY WILL INTERPRET AS
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GIVING THE U.S. THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN PANAMA.

2. LIKE US, TORRIJOS ALSO HAS POLITICAL PROBLEMS OVER THE TREATY. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, WE SHOULD TRY TO HOLD OFF ON EMPHASIZING THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE FOR THE TIME BEING.
JORDETWBT

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, CANALS, NEUTRALISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA05298
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770265-0229
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770723/aaaaatfw.tel
Line Count: 61
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER ASKS FOR RESPITE IN DISCUSSING POST-2000 DEFENSE/NEUTRALITY
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, ELAB, PN, PQ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a1c78264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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